

Exploring Ancient History with Crafts

# EGYPT: KING TUT DEATH MASK



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# **Egypt**

## **King Tut Death Mask**

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# EGYPT

## King Tut Death Mask



### Materials Needed:

1 Empty Milk Jug

3 Paper Plates

Newspaper, torn into strips about 1 1/2 X 12"

1 c. Flour (unbleached is best)

1 tsp. Salt

2 c. Lukewarm Water

Gold Spray Paint

Black & Blue Tempera Paint & Brushes

Gold Glitter Spray (optional)

## Step 1: Cut your Jug

Hold the jug by the handle, and starting at the neck, cut in half along the seam. You will be using the side with the handle. Throw the other side away. Take the side you are keeping and cut the bottom of the jug off, along the seam.

## Step 2: Make your Form

### The face:

Turn your milk jug upside down. The handle is the nose. The jug's neck is either the lower half of the face or the Egyptian beard, depending on your preference.

### The headpiece:

Cut 3 paper plates in half. Center the straight edge of one half at the "forehead" and staple securely.

With straight edge towards the face, staple a plate on each side of the face, matching the slope of the forehead paper plate as best you can.



On each side of the face, flip a paper plate so the straight edge is on the outside, arrange the plate so it overlaps the first one about halfway, and staple securely.



### Step 3: Paper Mache!

Make paste by mixing the flour, salt, and water, and whisking until smooth (it will be thin). Lay mask on its nose, dip paper strips in the paste, run the strips between your index and middle fingers to eliminate excess paste, and begin by wrapping all edges from back to front (keep half the length of the strip on the back, wrap over the edge and smooth on the front). After all edges have been covered, finish covering the rest of the back.

Turn mask over. Cover the front with paper strips. Make sure to cover the sides of the nose (Keep an eye on kids! They tend to leave a gap between the bridge of the nose and the face!).

If you would like to make a beard, build the bottle's neck with some extra paper mache.

Make sure all children's names are on the front of the mask by writing their names on another small piece of paper and smoothing it onto the wet surface.

### Step 4: Drying

Dry face-up on wax paper in a warm place.

Some very wet masks may need help to keep the back from falling off the mask! If this is a problem, gently put a piece of wadded up newspaper under the wax paper.

Check daily, allowing the back to get air to avoid mold. Allow up to a week to dry completely.

### Step 5: Painting

Spray paint entire mask gold. Let dry. (If you are doing several for a class, paint backs first. When dry, put names on backs with magic marker. Flip, and spray fronts.) 1 can Spray Paint covers about 5 masks.

Look at a picture of King Tut's mask\* as a guide to decorate your mask with the blue and black paint. Or just be creative, like the picture here!

Finally, spray with gold glitter spray!  
Enjoy your final piece of art!



\* Pictures of the real mask: <http://www.artlex.com/ArtLex/m/mask.html>  
or [http://www.ancientegyptoday.com/Data\\_News/tut/index.html](http://www.ancientegyptoday.com/Data_News/tut/index.html)

Note: Most paper mache recipes recommend another coat of paper mache after the first coat dries. In some school situations, this is not possible, and it is not really necessary for this craft.